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FM Coup-Lead 4 Paris (R-794 ...AN ADVISOR.)

The Paris-based agency quoted Mr Dacko as saying in his broadcast: "I decided to lead this government of national salvation because I am the only Central African head of state to have been elected by universal suffrage.

"I solemnly proclaim the overthrow of Emperor Bokassa I, who is unworthy to carry out the functions of head of state because of his known participation in the massacres of children in January and April 1979."

Last month a five-nation African commission found that Emperor Bokassa had ordered -- and almost certainly taken part in -- the massacre of about 400 schoolchildren.

According to AFP, Mr Dacko, who became an advisor to Emperor Bokassa in 1976 after several years of house arrest, said on Bangui Radio today he had appealed to France for support.

Emperor Bokassa established his court at Berengo some 50 miles outside the capital, where he was surrounded by his elite Imperial Guard. Mr Dacko's reported statement tonight gave no word of his whereabouts.

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